

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 2

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
21 March 1982

Fidel spurs rebels:

U.S.

By LARS-ERIK NELSON

Washington (News Bureau)—The Reagan administration charged yesterday that Cuban President Fidel Castro had personally ordered increased arms deliveries to guerrillas in El Salvador in an effort to thwart next Sunday's elections in that country.

A State Department white paper detailing Cuban and Nicaraguan support for the Salvadoran guerrillas said Castro gave the order in Havana in mid-December after consulting with guerrilla leaders.

"Within the past three months, shipments of arms into El Salvador reached unprecedented peaks, averaging out to the highest over-all volume since the 'final offensive' last year," the paper said. The "final offensive" was an unsuccessful effort by the guerrillas in January 1981 to overthrow the Salvadoran junta.

The accusation of Castro's personal involvement was the most specific and recent of a series of charges contained in the paper, which was released by State Department spokesman Dean Fischer. He declined to disclose the actual intelligence information on which the charges were based, in keeping with the administration's belief that it must protect its sources of information.

ANOTHER DOCUMENT quoted "distinguished Americans," including

Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) and former White House counsel Lloyd Cutler, as supporting the administration's view that the intelligence information was solid.

The State Department said that since the Castro order was given, heavier and more sophisticated weapons—including M-60 machine guns and 57-mm recoilless rifles—have flowed into El Salvador by sea and by land routes through Honduras.

The administration has previously charged that Castro made the Salvadoran insurrection more effective by uniting three competing leftist groups into a single command. It charged that the Unified Revolutionary Directorate, formed in Havana in May 1980, follows a pattern designed to "insure Marxist-Leninist control of the insurgency and of any government emerging from it."

THE GUERRILLAS have rejected invitations to take part in the Sunday elections, accusing the military and the centrist junta of having rigged them in advance.

The white paper identified three Nicaraguan ships—the Monibo, the Aracely and the Nicarao—that it said had been used to smuggle weapons into El Salvador. It also charged that C-47 aircraft had run guns into El Salvador from Papalonal airfield, 23 miles from the Nicaraguan capital, Managua.

The paper also restated allegations of arms smuggling that were made in a similar paper a year ago.